

Message Text

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63

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 CU-05 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 CIEP-03 INRE-00 SSO-00

DRC-01 /050 W

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O 232200Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO US CUSTOMS DISTRICT DIRECTOR MIAMI NIACT IMMEDIATE

MIAMI RECEPTION CENTER NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6805

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 2052

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, TD

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FOR TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT SHIPMENT

REF: RICH/BURKE TELCON AUGUST 23

1. AT REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ERROL MAHABIR CONTACTED EMBASSY AFTERNOON AUGUST 23 WITH PLEA FOR US GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR PROMPT CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF SHIPMENT OF TRINIDADIAN HANDICRAFT AND CULTURAL ITEMS. THESE GOODS ARE FOR DISPLAY PURPOSED ONLY AT AN ORLANDO, FLORIDA SHOPPING CENTER WEEK OF AUGUST 26-30 FOR EXHIBITION ORGANIZED BY GOVT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. ACCORDING TO MAHABIR, SHIPMENT WAS NOT INVOICED CORRECTLY AND IS BEING HELD BY US CUSTOMS MIAMI FOR INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF DUTY. GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IS WILLING TO POST BOND IF NECESSARY TO ASSURE CUSTOMS THAT GOODS ARE NOT RPT NOT FOR SALE AND WILL BE RE-EXPORTED. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THESE GOODS SHOULD QUALIFY FOR TEMPORARY ENTRY WITHOUT PAYMENT OF DUTY OR POSTING OF BOND.

2. GOODS ARRIVED BY AIR (BWIA) ON AUG 15 AND ARE ADDRESSED TO MISS ERICA WILLIMAS, CARE OF TRINTOBAGO TOURISM AND TRADE CENTER, WINTER PARK, FLORIDA. (FYI MISS ERICA WILLIAMS IS DAUGHTER OF TRINIDAD PRIME MINISTER DR. ERIC WILLIAMS.)

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3. ACCORDING TO MINISTER MAHABIR, URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED SO THAT GOODS MAY BE DISPLAYED DURING ENTIRE WEEK PRIOR TO TRINIDAD INDEPENDENCE DAY AUGUST 31. WE ATTEMPTED TO CALL CUSTOMS IN MIAMI BUT WERE UNABLE TO GET THROUGH BEFORE COB AUGUST 23. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO EXPEDITE TEMPORARY ENTRY AND CLEARANCE OF THIS SHIPMENT. IF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED, EITHER FROM TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT OR THIS EMBASSY, PLEASE TELEPHONE EMBASSY AT 62-26371 SATURDAY MORNING AUGUST 24.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO RICH/BURKE TELECON MAHABIR HAS INFORMED US HE WAS ABLE TO CONTACT GOTT AMB MCINTYRE IN WASHINGTON WHO WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO EXPEDITE CLEARANCE.

5. FOR MIAMI RECEPTION CENTER: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN SEEING THAT THIS MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF SENIOR U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS MORNING OF AUGUST 24.
RICH

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